

**Social Studies  
Grade-Level  
Expectations:  
Grade 8  
Color Coded**

## **Geography**

### **The World in Spatial Terms**

1. Use time zones in the United States or the International Date Line to interpret a map or representation of a globe and calculate current times in different places (G-1A-M2)
2. Locate major landforms and geographic features, places, and bodies of water/waterways on a map of Louisiana (G-1A-M2)
3. Construct a map based on given narrative information (G-1A-M2)
4. Construct a chart or diagram to display geographical information in an organized way (G-1A-M2)

### **Places and Regions**

5. Describe and analyze the distinguishing physical and/or human characteristics of Louisiana regions (G-1B-M1)
6. Describe ways in which location and physical features have influenced historical events in Louisiana and the development of the state (e.g., Mississippi River/swamp in the Battle of New Orleans) (G-1B-M2)
7. Explain how or why specific regions are changing as a result of physical phenomena (e.g., changes in the coastal wetlands) (G-1B-M3)
8. Identify and describe factors that cause a Louisiana region to change (e.g., natural occurrences, disasters, migration) (G-1B-M3)
9. Explain ways in which goals, cultures, interests, inventions, and technological advances have affected perceptions and uses of places or regions in Louisiana (G-1B-M4)

### **Physical and Human Systems**

10. Analyze the population characteristics and other demographic information about the United States and Louisiana, including rates of increase/decrease for demographic variables (G-1C-M2)
11. Explain why humans settled and formed societies in specific regions or why immigrant groups (e.g., Acadians) settled in specific areas of Louisiana (G-1C-M3)
12. Describe the causes and effects of cultural diffusion and the effects of cultural diversity in Louisiana (G-1C-M5)
13. Describe factors that contribute to economic interdependence at the local, national, and global level, as related to Louisiana's past and present (G-1C-M6)

### **Environment and Society**

14. Analyze, evaluate, and predict consequences of environmental modifications on Louisiana landforms, natural resources, and plant or animal life (G-1D-M1)
15. Analyze the benefits and challenges of the Louisiana physical environments on its inhabitants (e.g., flooding, soil, climate conducive to growing certain plants) (G-1D-M2)
16. Analyze the distribution and uses of Louisiana's natural resources (G-1D-M3)
17. Identify a contemporary Louisiana geographic issue, and research possible solutions (G-1D-M4)

## **Civics**

### **Structure and Purposes of Government**

18. Identify the powers of state government as defined in the Louisiana Constitution and compare/contrast those powers to the powers of the federal government (C-1A-M3)
19. Explain the purposes of state constitutions and describe the relationship of the Louisiana Constitution to the U.S. Constitution (C-1A-M4)
20. Identify the structure and powers of the three branches of the state government, the limits of those powers, and key positions within each branch (C-1A-M5)
21. Describe the various forms of local government in Louisiana (C-1A-M5)
22. Describe the powers/responsibilities and limits of power for government officials at the local and state levels in Louisiana (C-1A-M6)
23. Identify qualifications and terms of office for key leaders/representatives at the state and local levels (C-1A-M6)
24. Identify current government leaders at the state, local, and national levels in the United States (C-1A-M6)
25. Explain how a bill becomes law at the state level (C-1A-M7)
26. List and apply criteria for evaluating rules and laws (C-1A-M7)
27. Describe ways by which public policies are formed, including the role of lobbyists, special interest groups, and constituents (C-1A-M8)
28. Explain why taxes are needed and purposes for which tax monies/revenues are used (C-1A-M9)
29. Identify types of taxes collected by the local, state, and federal government (C-1A-M10)
30. Evaluate a type of tax in a historical context (e.g., severance tax) (C-1A-M10)

### **Foundations of the American Political System**

31. Explain how the Louisiana Constitution reflects the principles of government set forth in the U.S. Constitution (e.g., checks and balance, separation of powers) (C-1B-M3)
32. Describe various peaceful ways of resolving political or social conflicts, including *majority vote vs. consensus* (C-1B-M4)
33. Analyze how the democratic process has been used to institute change in Louisiana (C-1B-M5)
34. Explain how the U.S. census is used in the political process and how it affects Louisiana representation in Congress (C-1B-M6)
35. Describe the role of the Electoral College and how Louisiana participates in that system (C-1B-M6)
36. Explain how political parties, campaigns, and elections provide opportunities for citizens to participate in government (C-1B-M6)

### **International Relationships**

37. Explain the role of nation-states in various alliances and international organizations (e.g., NATO, the United Nations, OPEC) and identify effects of their decisions upon Louisiana (C-1C-M1)
38. Explain how U.S. foreign policy has affected Louisiana (e.g., tariffs, NAFTA) (C-1C-M2)

### **Roles of the Citizen**

39. Identify individual rights guaranteed in the Louisiana Constitution (C-1D-M2)
40. Describe ways by which citizens can organize, monitor, or influence government and politics at the local, state, and national levels (C-1D-M4)
41. Explain the importance of being an informed citizen on public issues, recognizing propaganda, and knowing the voting issues (C-1D-M5)

## **Economics**

### **Fundamental Economic Concepts**

42. Analyze situations involving scarcity (limited resources) at the individual, group, and societal levels to determine the need for choices or what is gained/lost by a decision (E-1A-M1)
43. Explain how effective economic decisions (e.g., determining the best level of consumption) require comparing the additional costs of alternatives with additional benefits (E-1A-M2)
44. Explain choice/trade-offs, cost/benefits, and opportunity costs related to making personal economic decisions (E-1A-M3)
45. Analyze the role of specialization in Louisiana's economy (E-1A-M4)
46. Use a variety of resources to research education and training for jobs and careers (E-1A-M5)
47. Cite examples of how skills/knowledge and technical training increase personal productivity and career opportunities, and which skills/knowledge would enhance particular career prospects (E-1A-M5)
48. Characterize and analyze the use of productive resources in an economic system (E-1A-M6)
49. Describe how the four basic economic questions are answered in *traditional* vs. *command* vs. *market* economies (E-1A-M6)
50. Describe institutions (e.g., banks, government agencies, large companies, small businesses) that make up economic systems (E-1A-M7)
51. Use economic concepts (e.g., scarcity, opportunity cost) to explain historic and contemporary events and developments in Louisiana (E-1A-M9)

### **Individuals, Households, Businesses, and Governments**

52. Explain how supply and demand affect prices (E-1B-M1)
53. Explain and analyze factors affecting production and allocation of goods/services in Louisiana and the United States (E-1B-M2)
54. Explain the difference between private goods/services and public goods/services and give examples of each (E-1B-M3)
55. Identify the costs and benefits of a given government policy (e.g., trade agreements, minimum wage) on a competitive market (E-1B-M4)
56. Identify various types of taxes and user fees and predict their consequences (E-1B-M5)
57. Explain reasons for trade between nations and the impact of international trade (E-1B-M6)
58. Describe historical and economic factors influencing the economic growth, interdependence, and development of Louisiana and the nation (e.g., mass production, oil boom and decline) (E-1B-M7)

### **The Economy as a Whole**

59. Explain the meaning of various economic indicators that help describe the state of an economy (e.g., GDP, CPI, stock market indices, rate of unemployment or inflation) (E-1C-M1)
60. Define *inflation* and *unemployment* in terms of an economic system as a whole (E-1C-M2)
61. Describe the influence/impact of inflation or unemployment on different groups of people (e.g., consumers, business owners) (E-1C-M2)

## History

### Historical Thinking Skills

62. Construct a timeline of key events in Louisiana history (H-1A-M1)
63. Interpret data presented in a timeline correlating Louisiana, U.S., and world history (H-1A-M1)
64. Compare and contrast events and ideas from Louisiana's past and present, explaining political, social, or economic contexts (H-1A-M2)
65. Analyze the causes, effects, or impact of a given historical event in Louisiana (H-1A-M3)
66. Analyze how a given historical figure influenced or changed the course of Louisiana's history (H-1A-M3)
67. Analyze given source material to identify opinion, propaganda, or bias (H-1A-M4)
68. Interpret a political cartoon (H-1A-M4)
69. Propose and defend potential solutions to past and current issues in Louisiana (H-1A-M5)
70. Conduct historical research using a variety of resources, and evaluate those resources, to answer historical questions related to Louisiana history (H-1A-M6)

### Louisiana History

71. Describe major early explorers and explorations significant to Louisiana or early settlers in Louisiana (H-1D-M1)
72. Describe leaders who were influential in Louisiana's development (H-1D-M1)
73. Describe and explain the importance of major events and ideas in the development of Louisiana (H-1D-M1)
74. Describe the causes and effects of various migrations into Louisiana (H-1D-M1)
75. Describe the contributions of ethnic groups significant in Louisiana history (H-1D-M1)
76. Trace and describe various governments in Louisiana's history (H-1D-M2)
77. Describe major conflicts in context of Louisiana history (e.g., Rebellion of 1768, the French and Indian War) (H-1D-M3)
78. Describe and analyze the impact of Louisiana's geographic features on historic events, settlement patterns, economic development, etc (H-1D-M4)
79. Explain how Louisiana's natural resources have shaped its history (e.g., petroleum) (H-1D-M4)
80. Trace the state's economic development and growth toward economic diversity (e.g., fur trade, tourism, technology) (H-1D-M5)
81. Explain cultural elements that have shaped Louisiana's heritage (e.g., festivals, music, dance, food, languages) (H-1D-M6)

**Geography** – 25% of LEAP (GLES **GR 5:** 1 – 16, **GR 6:** 1 – 10, **GR 7:** 1 – 9, **GR 8:** 1 – 17)

**Civics** – 20% of LEAP (GLES **GR 5:** 17, **GR 6:** 11, **GR 7:** 10 – 40, **GR 8:** 18 – 41)

**Economics** – 15% of (GLES **GR 5:** 18 – 19, **GR 6:** 12 – 14, **GR 7:** 41 – 42, **GR 8:** 42 – 61)

**History** – 40% of LEAP (GLES **GR 5:** 20 – 41, **GR 6:** 15 – 52, **GR 7:** 43 – 82, **GR 8:** 62 – 81)